



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2010 with funding from
Lyrisis Members and Sloan Foundation

[Document G.]

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,

January 18th, 1860.

Read and ordered to be printed.

R E P O R T

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON REPAIRS

OF

THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

JANUARY, 1860.

1940-1941

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

GEORGE W. BROWN

COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1941

R E P O R T .

The Committee appointed by your Honorable Bodies, under the Act of 1858, “ appropriating a sum of money for the rendering more secure against fire, the State house and the public archives ; for erecting a fire-proof Record office, and for the enlarging the State Library room and the hall of the House of Delegates,” &c., &c., report :

That it commenced its duties promptly, on the adjournment of the Legislature, and has effected all that was contemplated by the act (except the construction of an Artesian well), but not without having incurred an expenditure of \$28,362.⁸²/₁₀₀, exceeding the appropriation—which excess has been largely absorbed in the substitution of iron and stone for wood—the iron-work alone having cost \$17,425.⁷²/₁₀₀, in the construction of the floors, roof, window shutters and extensive book cases to the Record Office building ; and which the committee was induced to adopt, in order to render the building fire-proof *beyond contingency*.

The appropriation for this building was	\$20,000 00
Its cost was not less than	34,465 00
Shewing an excess of	\$14,465 00
	=====

In the progress of enlarging the hall of the House of Delegates, just seventy per centum, it was discovered that there was much decay in the old materials, and that the floor of the chamber of the Court of Appeals had greatly sunk in the centre, and, indeed, that the dilapidated condition of that side of the building was so great, as to render it necessary to

renew it entirely, as well in reference to the safety of its occupants as to the advantage of economy.

In the original estimates for the enlargement of the Library building, it was assumed that it would be only necessary to *add* to the old walls, but it was discovered that this could not be done to advantage; it was, therefore, built up anew from the foundation, and made considerably larger than was contemplated in the outset. Owing to the perishing condition of the chamber of the Court of Appeals, and the need of a separate room for its officers, it was found to be necessary to renew it throughout and to construct another room adjoining to serve for the clerks and the papers.

The rooms designed for the uses of committees, being occupied by the Comptroller, Chancery Record Keeper and Land Officer, were not vacated in consequence of the non-completion of the Record Office building; consequently, the committee were prevented from having them put in condition for the use of your Honorable Bodies.

The cost of an Artesian well was so uncertain as not to warrant your committee to commence its construction, and it was deemed most expedient to substitute therefor a capacious water tank, as a receptacle for the water from the roof of the State house, to serve in the event of fire, to supply the heating apparatus and the water fixtures located within the State house.

The re-construction of the Court of Appeals and the additional room, enlarging the hall of delegates, building a new stairway, erecting a new library room, folding room and armory, a fire-proof building for the heating apparatus, the heating apparatus itself, the water tank, and the arched tunnelling, &c., &c., have absorbed not only the remainder of the appropriation of \$30,000.00, but the further sum of \$13,897. ^{$\frac{8}{100}$} , which, together with the excess expended on the Record office, amounts to \$28,362. ^{$\frac{2}{100}$} , for which sum your committee respectfully ask an immediate appropriation, that the contractors, who have faithfully complied with their engagements, may be compensated.

For the sum of \$78,362. ^{$\frac{3}{100}$} , your committee feel the utmost confidence that the State has received the full value in work, executed in the most workmanlike and substantial manner. And that your honorable bodies will find the facilities for conducting the public business suitably increased by a Hall for Delegates amply large and well ventilated, a commodious folding room, an extensive room for the copying clerks. Four *additional* committee rooms. comfortable water fixtures, a

spacious and well constructed Library room, a room for the deposit of the arms of the State, an improved chamber for the Court of Appeals, with a spacious room adjacent for the occupancy of its clerks, and its books and papers. All well warmed by the most approved mode of heating, so constructed as to preclude the necessity for the introduction of any fire within the walls.

Also, a substantial, thoroughly fire proof building, sufficiently spacious to serve for ages as a depository of the archives of the State.

The committee, it will be perceived, has expended but little on embellishment, preferring to confine itself to architectural proportions, solid workmanship and the prevailing plainness which characterises the State House.

The vouchers, embracing the details of the work done, are filed with the Comptroller of the State, to which your honorable bodies are referred.

As the act did not contemplate any alteration in the Senate side of the building, the Committee has left it, as near as practical, in its original condition, but, whilst it would not advise any *re-construction* of the Senate Chamber, or material alteration of the *lower* floor, it thinks that the *second* floor should be arranged in a way similar to that on side of the Hall of Delegates.

Your committee are of the opinion that propriety and economy require that the unrenewed part of the State house should be thoroughly repaired both inside and outside, that a drain should be carried to the river, &c., and it has taken much pains to ascertain the details of such needed work, through the aid of the reliable architects it has been employing, and estimate that it would involve the expenditure of \$38,000. This sum would exhibit the State house, out houses, grounds, &c., in a condition worthy of the State, and would prove economical in the end, for there is much decay in the old work which does not meet the eye.

Your committee would, therefore, recommend a further appropriation of \$40,000, for the objects designated.

All which is respectfully submitted,

S. OWINGS HOFFMAN.

F. C. CROWLEY.

ANNAPOLIS, January, 1860.

